horizontal synchronizing signal HD and it is not an image signal (see Kasahara et al. col. 12, lines 17-20). Contrary to Kasahara et al., according to the present invention of claim 1, a digital image signal is input to a second input terminal.

Furthermore, nowhere does the spatial density changing circuit 62 also have a switch for selecting between the output of an error diffusion circuit and a dither pattern circuit. Again, the Examiner is relying solely on Kasahara's description that there are cases in which a dither circuit can be used to realize the spatial density changing circuit 62, and other instances in which a diffusing circuit is used. Nowhere does Kasahara et al. teach that both a dither circuit and a diffusing circuit are used to realize the density changing circuit, and that a switch is provided to interchange between the output of the dither circuit and the error diffusing circuit (col. 26, lines 31-34). Thus, Kasahara et al. cannot anticipate claim 1 nor any claims dependent therefrom.

Turning to the rejection of claims 4-7 and 11-14 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Kasahara et al. in view of Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,014,333), these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. The deficiencies of the primary reference Kasahara et al. are discussed above. It is not seen that the secondary reference Miller et al. supplies the missing teachings to achieve or render obvious claim 1 or any of the claims dependent thereon. The Examiner states in cipher 6 that it would have been obvious to combine Kasahara et al. with Miller et al. As stated above, Kasahara et al. nowhere teaches using both an error diffusion circuit and a dither pattern circuit and a switching method between the two. Miller et al. does not show that a noise detector controls the second switch in accordance with the detection of noise. Miller et al. teaches that a selection of the dither matrix is based upon the local area high spatial frequency content (col. 3, lines 36-45), but does not teach that noise detection determines whether the driver receives any output from the dither pattern circuit. Thus, no combination of

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Kasahara et al. and Miller et al. could achieve or render obvious claim 1 or any of the claims, including specifically claims 4-7 and 11-14 which depend thereon.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 27, 2003, at Tucson, Arizona.

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